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United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

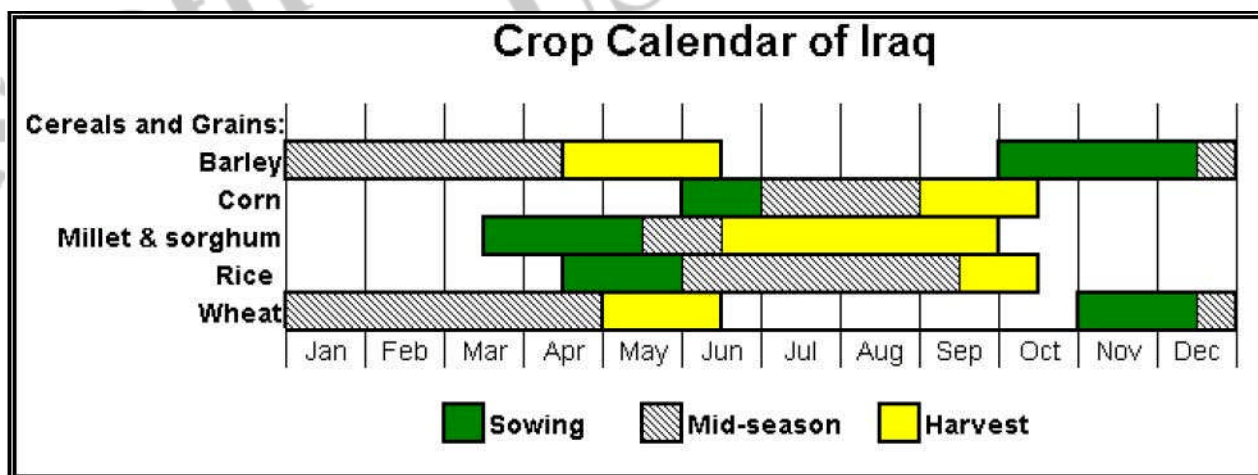


**October Report – Week 2**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

1. MY 2009/10 winter grains 10 to 14 day weather outlook calls for very dry conditions in the vast majority of Iraq, accompanied by well above normal temperatures (4-6 degrees C above normal). Slight precipitation is forecasted for the Kurdish governorates late next week (2-10mm) as a weak cold front moves through eastern Turkey; however, most of Iraq will remain dry.
2. NOAA experimental ensemble forecast products also show very dry conditions in Iraq for the next 4 to 8 days (Figure 1). The cold front is visible in the 132 to 156 hour forecast with a slight chance of showers in northern Iraq, but conditions remain dry in the following days.
3. Change detection analysis conducted on seasonal Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) between September and October showed large areas with significant decreases in NDVI, indicating summer crop harvesting (Figure 2). Large areas of harvest include At Ta'min, Wasit, and Babil (Figure 3). Areas of increasing NDVI were mainly located in the rice growing regions of An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah, indicating that the rice crop showed no major signs of harvest as of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Figure 4).

The overall summer crop for MY 2008/09 is forecasted to be less than the previous year.



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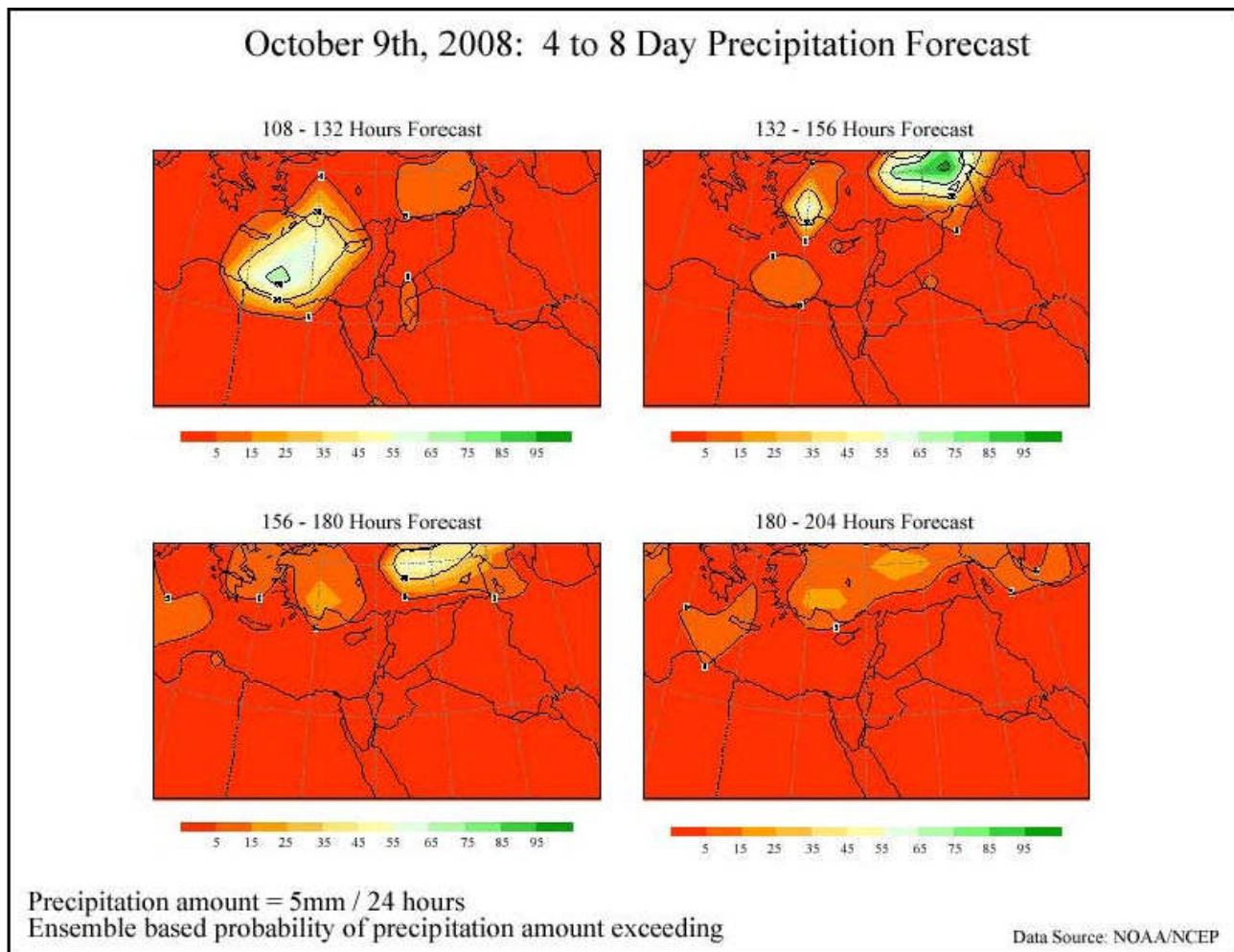


Figure 1: 4 to 8 Day precipitation forecast for the Middle East.

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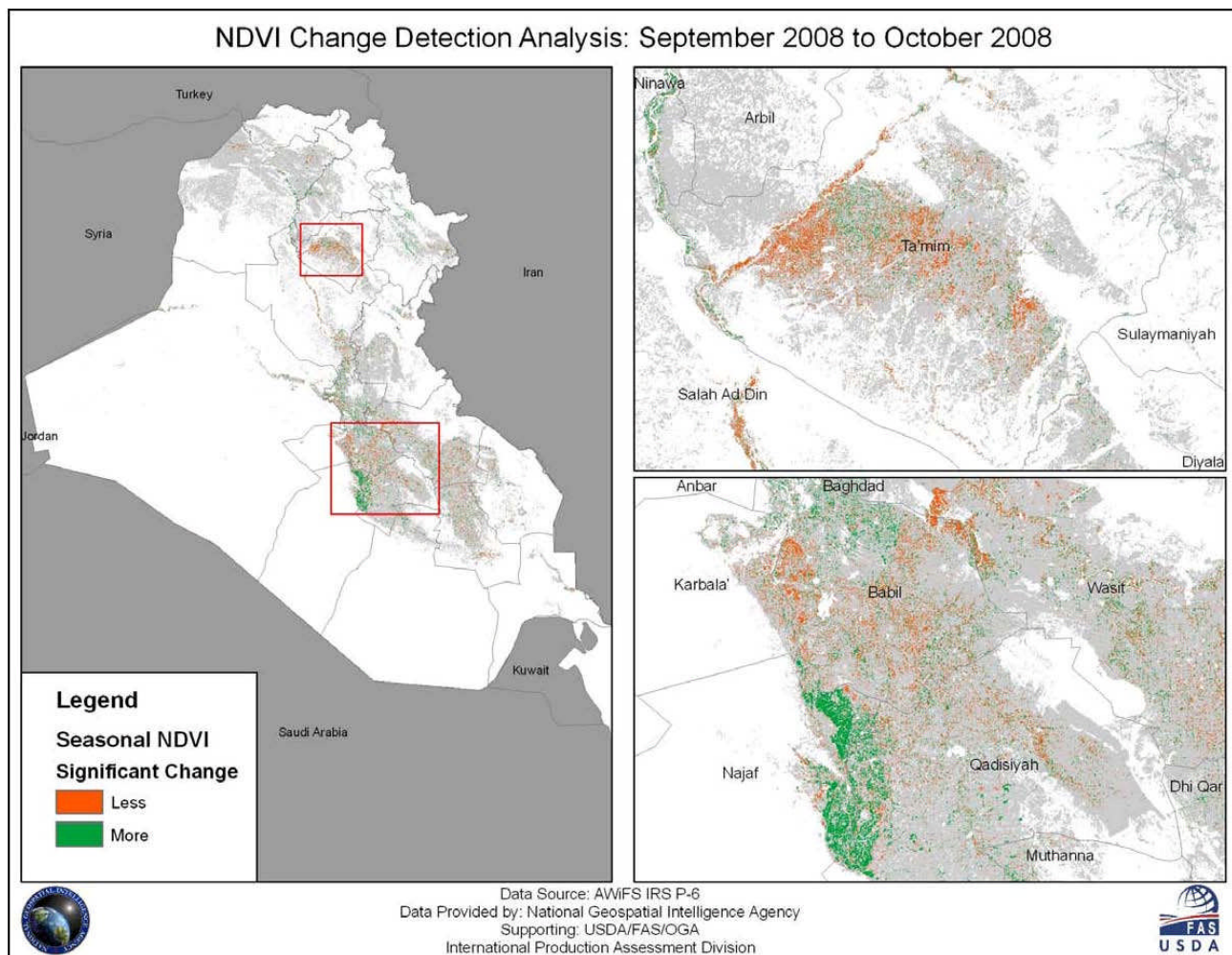


Figure 2: NDVI change detection analysis map with areas of summer crop harvest and peak growth.



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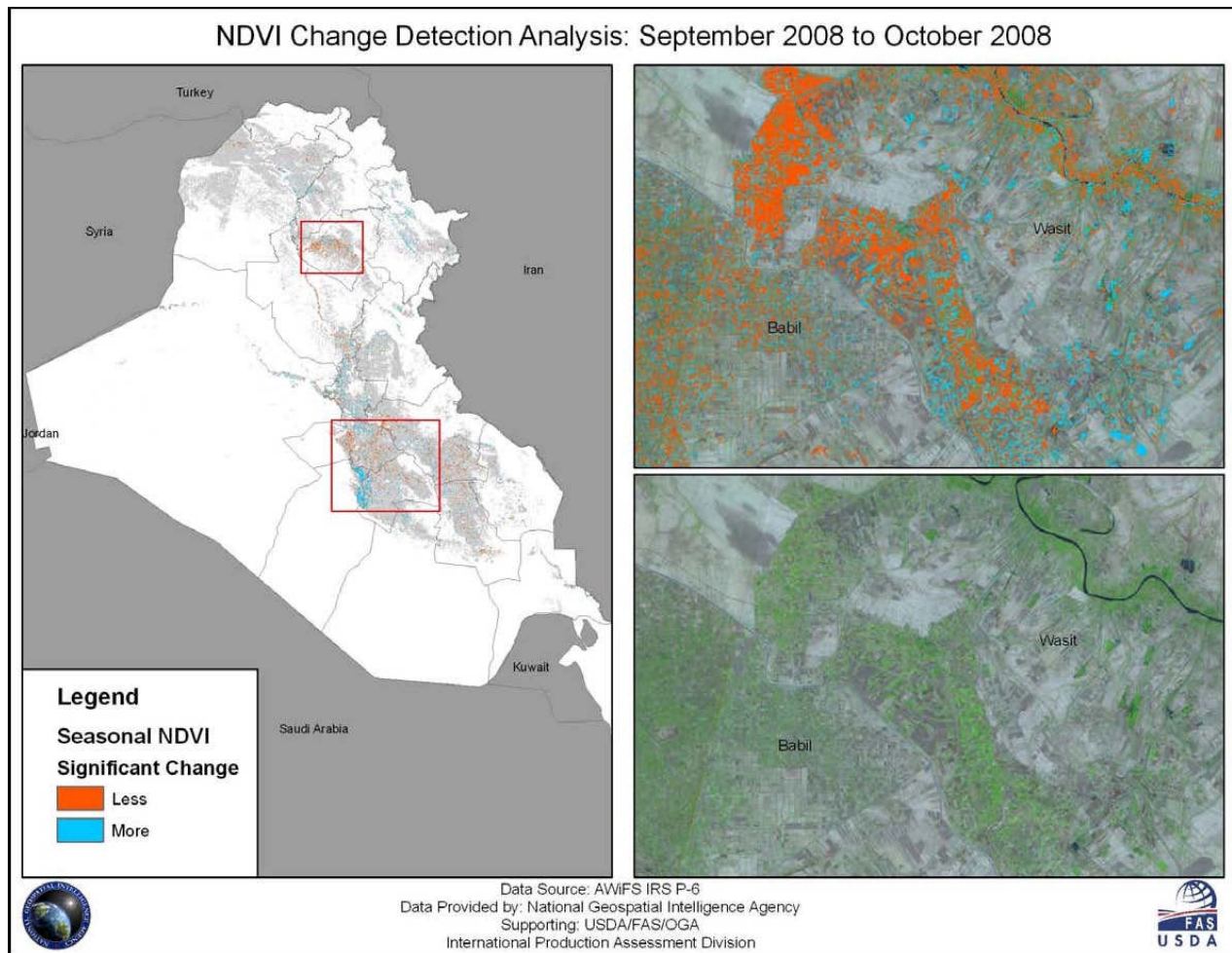


Figure 3: Orange color signifies large areas of summer crop harvest in Babil and Wasit.

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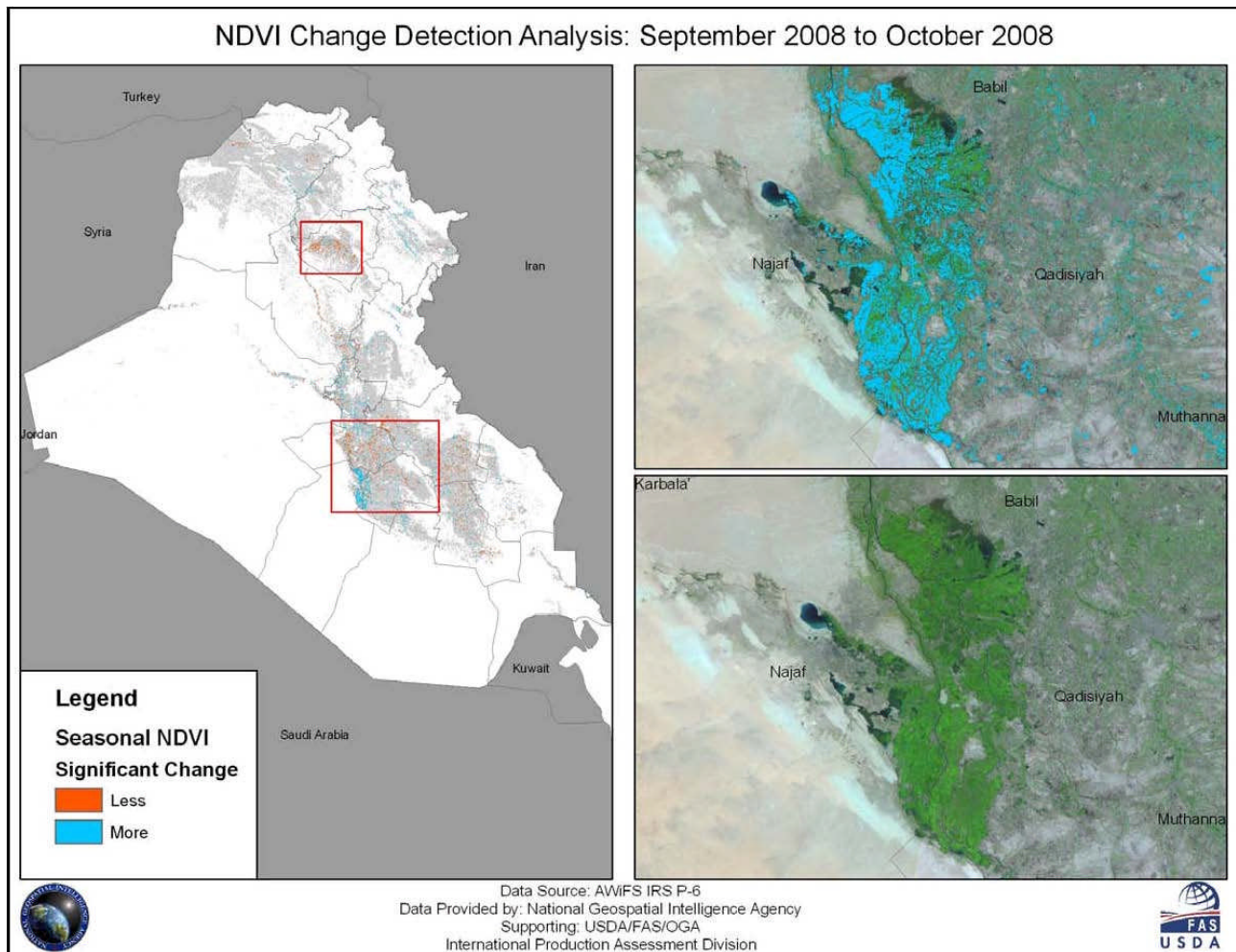


Figure 4: Blue color signifies increasing NDVI and peak green-up for summer rice crop.